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REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are still pending in this application. Claims 23-26 have been added. Reconsideration of the application is earnestly requested. The Examiner has rejected all claims 1-22 under section 103 in view of *Hailpern*, *Tso* and *Trcka*. Although the Examiner's arguments have been carefully considered, Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections as explained below.

The Present Invention

As pointed out in the Reply filed December 7, 2004 antivirus software downloaded from an antivirus scanning server runs on end user's computers and collects virus data. A central server then collects such virus data from each user's computer, consolidates the virus data, and creates virus tracking information that may be viewed on a display by any party. The Examiner's attention is directed toward the remaining discussion of the present invention in that Reply; for brevity, it is not repeated here.

The Cited Art Distinguished

The two cited primary references, U.S. Patent No. 6,275,937 issued to *Hailpern et al.* (*Hailpern*) and U.S. Patent No. 6,088,803 issued to *Tso et al.* (*Tso*), both describe a technique by which content downloaded from the Internet is first scanned by anti-virus software on a server before it reaches an end user's computer. These references do not disclose actually scanning an end user's computer.

In the "Response to Arguments" of the final office action at page 2, the action contends that "virus scanning of the client computers" is taught by *Hailpern*. That paragraph of the final action uses the phrases "results of the virus scan that was performed for each of the clients," and "the scan that was performed with respect to each of the client computers." Applicant would like to emphasize that claim 1 requires "virus scanning of the client end-user computers," and "results of the virus scanning on each client end-user computer." In other words, the claim unambiguously requires that the client computers themselves are scanned. The language of the final action seems to suggest that the *Hailpern* reference need only show scanning *on behalf of* a client computer or scanning performed *with respect to* a client computer.

In fact, the cited portion of *Hailpern* at column 4 only shows a client computer making a request that incoming Internet data be scanned, not that the client computer itself be scanned; the cited portion at column 10 only shows that a requester could itself scan the incoming Internet data, not that the client computer itself will be scanned; and the cited portions at columns 12 and 14 only indicate that data from a particular URL is scanned, not that a client computer itself is scanned. For all these reasons, Applicant continues to stress that *Hailpern* does not teach or suggest virus scanning of a client end-user computer that produces a scan log which can then be sent back from that client end-user computer over a distributed computer network to a virus tracking server as required by claims 1 in 12 and which is argued more specifically in the previous Reply.

Regarding the *Tso* reference, Applicant understands the Examiner's position that the network device 4 should be considered a client computer although Applicant does not agree with this interpretation. In order to clarify the nature of the invention, Applicant has inserted the term "end-user" to modify "client computer" in the independent claims. Therefore, network device 4 is not an end-user client computer even though it includes a virus checker. Further, client computer 12 while it may be an end-user computer, does not have virus scanning performed upon it, does not create a scan log of scanning results, and certainly does not send back a scan log over a distributed computer network to a virus tracking server. For all these reasons, Applicant continues to stress that the *Tso* reference does not teach the third and fourth elements of claims 1 and 12 as explained in detail in the previous Reply.

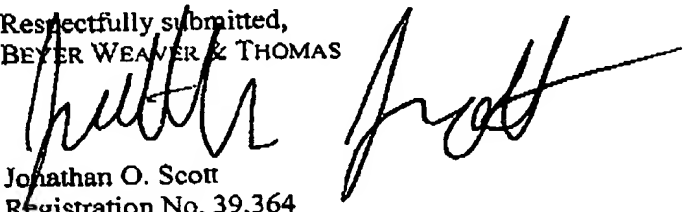
New Claims 23-26

New claims 23 and 25 emphasize one advantage of an embodiment of the present invention in that the virus tracking information, because it is derived from the scan log information from all of the client end-user computers, can identify concentrations of computer viruses at particular locations and throughout regions.

New claims 24 and 26 emphasize that the virus tracking information is derived from the scan log information by first aggregating the scan logs from all of the client end-user computers and then using that information to produce the virus tracking information.

For these reasons, it is respectfully noted that there is no prima facie case of obviousness, and it is requested that the rejection of claims 1-22 be withdrawn. Although it may be a moot point, Applicant points out that although the conclusion of the final office action states that applicant had amended claims, in fact there had been no amendments to the claims. Reconsideration of this application and issuance of a Notice of Allowance at an early date are respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would in any way expedite prosecution, please do not hesitate to telephone the undersigned at (612) 252-3330.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS


Jonathan O. Scott
Registration No. 39,364

BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP
P.O. Box 778
Berkeley, CA 94704-0778
Telephone: (612) 252-3330
Facsimile: (612) 825-6304